

# Dear Friends of LaAmistad,

Each year at this time as I reflect on the accomplishments of the prior 12 months, I am overwhelmed with a sense of pride and honor to be a part of this wonderful organization. We are always working to have the most positive impact possible on our students and to maximize the contribution we make to our communities. However, even by those standards 2013-2014 was truly monumental.

This past year, LaAmistad After School doubled its number of locations by establishing programs at Westminster Presbyterian Church and The Cathedral of St. Philip. Both of these locations serve Garden Hills Elementary, a Title I school in Buckhead which has the highest percentage of Latino students of any school in the Atlanta Public School system.

As Executive Director, I challenged my staff to put every aspect of each program under a microscope to see if some element could be added or revised to make them stronger. They responded in ways that exceeded my expectations, and we saw the impact. LaAmistad After School implemented new ways to increase student literacy through vocabulary enrichment and mathematical fluency; LaAmistad English for Successful Living saw its highest enrollment numbers in years; and our summer camp, Anímate, underwent a complete overhaul that raised the bar for student achievement by hiring Georgia certified elementary school teachers that pushed students outside of their comfort levels.

Our students were not the only ones who validated LaAmistad's success; it was also the broader Atlanta community. We enjoyed more media coverage and benefitted from the highest number of volunteers that we've ever had. Our growth and increased recognition tell me that you, our supporters, are helping us take LaAmistad down the right paths.

My heart overflows with pride for our students, families, volunteers, donors, and staff. Everyone gave 110 percent and as a result, we became an even better organization. Thank you all. As you read through these pages, I'm confident that everyone's hard work will be evident. I also hope that our continued unbridled enthusiasm for LaAmistad will leap from all of us to each of you.

# Thank you!

Cat DaCosta McAfee Executive Director

# **Our Vision:**

For Latino students and families throughout Georgia to thrive in their educational, personal, and career pursuits while working together to transform local communities.



**Our Mission:** 

To support Latino students and their families by providing a comprehensive support system comprised of tutoring, mentoring, and multiple resources which promote academic, physical, and personal growth.

# Highlight on New Locations

LaAmistad marked a huge milestone: we doubled our number of sites by launching two new after-school programs. With funds from the Goizueta Foundation, we began serving students from Garden Hills Elementary School at both Westminster Presbyterian Church and at The Cathedral of St. Philip.

Garden Hills Elementary has the highest Latino population of any school within the Atlanta Public Schools system. Its principal, Tommy Usher, and the faculty were aware of the program's impact at Warren T. Jackson and Sarah Smith Elementary, so they were excited that their students would become part of LaAmistad's growing family.

In September, LaAmistad After School at Westminster Presbyterian Church opened its doors to 20 students. Within a week, the Tuesday/Thursday program had a waiting list of students wanting to participate. Volunteers poured in from church members, high school students, college students and area retirees. As more volunteers became trained, we were able to enroll more students, and we ended the first year with 25 students who attended on a regular basis.

Inspired by our success at Westminster Presbyterian, in December, we opened LaAmistad After School at The Cathedral of St. Philip. This program was able to take students from the waiting list at Garden Hills and begin a Monday/Wednesday program. Volunteers came from diverse sources including St. Philip members as well as the Atlanta International School's Aprendiendo Inglés Sólido Creativity, Action, and Service Group.

At each site we saw tremendous student growth in achievement, but more importantly, growth in motivation to learn and to consistently put forth best efforts. Each day, students walked in tired from a hard day at school and anxious about homework. Over time, the staff and volunteers saw a turnaround in these students' confidence levels and enthusiasm to complete their work.

As we have done at the sites at **Peachtree Presbyterian** and **Church of the Redeemer**, these locations supported the community in many other ways. We offered a voice to students who previously had low self-confidence due to bullying. We supplemented the school supplies for those who did not have adequate resources to acquire the supplies needed to complete homework assignments and projects. We provided access to eyeglasses for students who couldn't afford them through our partner, **Vision Source InSight Eyecare.** 

By the end of the year, students were helping explain homework to one another, reading books during any extra time they had, and asking volunteers to give them problems to answer once their tasks were completed. These students and their families now have a much greater opportunity, and self-expectation for success and enhanced quality of life. These two new sites provide addition opportunities for LaAmistad to change people on a daily basis. Individual transformation is the heart of LaAmistad; its essence of success.

100%

of the general education students passed all 5 sections of the CRCT.

and 45% scored an 850 or higher **School:** The Westminster Schools

**Grade:** 6th

Started LaAmistad: In Pre-K

**Current Goal:** To graduate high school and go

to college

Wants To Attend: Georgia Technical Institute

Future Career Goal: Video Game Designer

One Day Hopes to Visit: China

Favorite Food: Pizza Bagels



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It is a good program that helps kids get motivated in school, presents them with life opportunities, and helps them get great grades It is AMAZING!

"

"The boy who always has a smile on his face" — that's every person's immediate description of Omar. It's accurate. Omar is a happy-go-lucky-kid who always sees the best in everyone and every situation. Perhaps it's because he has accomplished so much in his 11 years.

When Omar was asked his goal for the 2013-2014 school year, his answer was: "To earn a full scholarship, like my sister, to a great private school in Atlanta." It would require lots of hard work, but he believed in himself, and, he knew he could count on LaAmistad's staff and volunteers for help. Omar has now achieved that dream; the renowned Westminster Schools awarded Omar a full scholarship. Omar credits LaAmistad with playing a large role in this success. He says that without LaAmistad, he would not have had the motivation (or the manners he demonstrated on his interview!) to be accepted.

Anyone who knows Omar knows he wasn't going to be satisfied just with being accepted. He made sure that he would be fully prepared for the first day of class by attending classes there all summer to help set himself up for a successful first year.

Omar says that if he could tell someone one thing about LaAmistad it would be that, "It is a good program that helps kids get motivated in school, presents them with life opportunities, and helps them get great grades. It is AMAZING!"

Having accomplished one of his life goals at the age of 11, Omar is confident he will continue to accomplish anything he sets his mind to. This is a trait that he says he inherited from his mother, who has overcome so much and who always holds out hope. Now the only question is what great things will come from Omar, this young man who started with LaAmistad as a pre-kindergarten student with big dreams.

# **STATS:**

Volunteer Since: September 15, 2013
Location Served: LaAmistad After School at
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Found Out About LaAmistad: Westminster
Presbyterian's Pulpit Announcements
Years of Volunteer Experience: 30 Years
One Day Hopes to Visit: Northeastern France
because her mom's relatives fled from there
because of religious persecution to come to
this land.



Early in the 2013-2014 school year, Janet Fortenberry listed "kindness" as one of her special skills on the volunteer form for LaAmistad After School at Westminster Presbyterian Church. That couldn't have been more true. Janet blesses the 3rd through 5th grade students with her kindness each Thursday afternoon. She was one of the original volunteers at this location and has continued to volunteer more and more as needs have risen.

Janet also has been a top recruiter of new LaAmistad volunteers telling anyone who is considering it to, "Come spend an afternoon and observe. You will see how dedicated the parents, staff, and volunteers are, as well as the joy on the children's faces." Having recruited fellow church members, friends, and family to be part of LaAmistad, Janet is always happy to show them the ropes. Because of Janet, her daughter Sara, who attends Samford University in Alabama, volunteered with LaAmistad during her winter break and later worked as an intern all summer!

Janet said that one thing she has taken away from working with the students and from hearing her daughter share her internship experience is just how multi-dimensional the program is. She says what sets LaAmistad apart from other programs is, "...how the families have to take responsibility." Janet says she also has realized that students often have some of the same struggles adults do. Since she can relate to them, this gives the students comfort.

Watching Janet work with students, it's easy to see that she treasures each minute she spends with them. It fulfills her to know that she "...is part of building lives. Looking back one day, students may not remember who helped them, but what is important is that they know someone was there for them."

Being there for the students is a responsibility that she does not take lightly. Janet braved the cold to volunteer with the LaAmistad Buckhead 5K race this past February, lending a helping hand wherever it was needed. Janet also offered her services during other fundraisers in 2014. Without Janet's help in all these ways, LaAmistad students and staff would not have benefited as much as they have. Janet is truly changing lives, one afternoon at a time.

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# The Gutierrez Family

**Years in United States: 12** 

Family Members: Mariam Espiritu, Erbey Gutierrez, Yaritzy Gutierrez (7th grade), Fatima Gutierrez (4th grade), Erbey Gutierrez (2nd grade), Yahir Gutierrez (Kindergarten) Years with LaAmistad: 1 year



A shyly smiling Miriam Espiritu Gutierrez pauses from her volunteer cleaning work at the Westminster Presbyterian Church LaAmistad After School Program so her nine-year-old daughter, Fatima Gutierrez, can translate for this writer until a bilingual adult is available. Thank goodness for the children! Before she scampers off to be with her fourth grade class, Fatima says she loves to draw and is clear that she wants to be an artist. And what does she draw? "I draw my feelings: happy, angry, sad..." Spoken as an artist!

Fatima, her sister, and two brothers are the reason that Miriam has logged some 375 hours of service to LaAmistad since they joined in the fall of 2013, having learned of it through their church Christ the King. Miriam cleans the sanctuary, sets up for events, and happily does whatever LaAmistad asks. "We are so grateful for the homework help LaAmistad gives to our children," says Miriam. She and her husband Erbey, a cook at Azio Restaurant downtown, also like that LaAmistad offers them adult ESL classes. But mostly it's about their children, that they "learn about God," and they "advance in areas that used to give them trouble."

Indeed. Their oldest, twelve-year-old Yaritzy, also an able translator, is now in advanced placement pre-algebra in her seventh grade class at a charter school, Atlanta Classical Academy. She attends the Peachtree Presbyterian LaAmistad program Mondays through Thursdays. Yaritzy likes math and says she can tell the difference a year has made since she first joined. Yaritzy wants to teach first or second grade when she's grown and, not to be confined, says she also would like to design clothes. LaAmistad excels at broadening horizons.

Their two sons Erbey (7) and Yahir (5) are no strangers to LaAmistad. Erbey runs around the soccer field like a champ before beginning his homework at his daily after school program, stating firmly that he wants to be a professional soccer player. If he couldn't be a soccer player? He says he'd be... "A doctor!"

The Gutierrez children, who are outgoing, polite, and perfectly fluent in English, believe they can do anything they want to with a little help from their friends at LaAmistad and with hard work. Hard work and dedication is what their whole family exemplifies.



LaAmistad had a 100% high school graduation rate for its first graduating senior class last year.

> The state average for Latino students is 50%.



# We would like to give a special thanks to all of our partners that make LaAmistad possible!

# **Community Partners**

A Better Chance Al a Carte Foods Alliance Theatre **Boy Scouts of America** Breakthrough Atlanta **Buckhead Christian** Ministries Chick-fil-A **Community Assistance** Center CredAbility Delta Dental Insurance Company Domino's Pizza Fast Signs Hands on Atlanta Hennessy Automobile Companies High Museum of Art **Hispanic Health Coalition Insight Eyecare** Instituto de Mexico Jump and Slide Junior League of Atlanta Lockheed Martin **MALDEF** Microsoft Store Peachtree Presbyterian Preschool **Photo Ventures** Ser Familia Sin Fronteras **TalentQuest** The Atlanta Braves The Atlanta Hawks

The Coca-Cola Company The Cooler The Gharib Group The Gym at Peachtree The Latin American

Association

The Lodge Café

Univision

# **Partners in Education**

Atlanta Public Schools

Atlanta Classical Academy

**Emory University** Garden Hills Elementary School Georgia Institute of Technology Georgia Perimeter College Georgia State University High Point Elementary School Holy Innocents' Episcopal School Kennesaw State University Marist School North Atlanta High School Pace Academy Sarah Smith Elementary School Sutton Middle School The Galloway School The Lovett School The Westminster Schools Warren T Jackson **Elementary School** 

# **Faith Based Partners** Church of the Redeemer

Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church Peachtree Presbyterian Church The Cathedral of St. Philip Westminster Presbyterian Church

Some kids thought it was hard to have school all day, but I thought it was fine. Sometimes it was even fun.

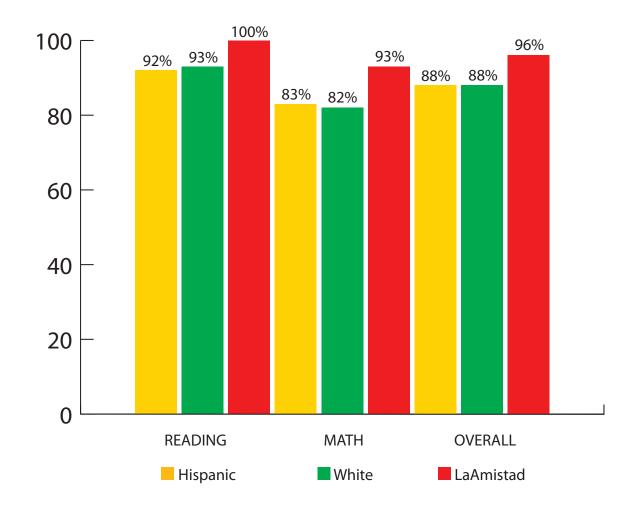
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# **Scholastic Achievement**

100% of students met or exceeded the CRCT reading standards and 93% met or exceeded the CRCT math standards. The average grade of all middle school students was 89.4; elementary students maintained a 91.4.

# GEORGIA CRCT RESULTS-CHILDREN WHO MET OR EXCEEDED STANDARDS IN GRADES 1-8

www.doe.k12.ga.us



# **Working Together in the Community**

700 volunteers completed over 13,500 hours of service and served more than 600 clients.

LaAmistad After School
LaAmistad English for Successful Living
LaAmistad Animate Summer Camp
LaAmistad Internship Program
LaAmistad Families
Other

5,200 Hours 400 Volunteers 1,700 Hours 55 Volunteers 2,700 Hours 60 Volunteers 2,200 Hours 30 Volunteers 500 Hours 90 Volunteers 1,400 Hours 65 Volunteers

# **Helping Students Reach Their Goals**

LaAmistad served over **180 students** from preschool through high school helping them achieve their academic and personal ambitions from *Warren T Jackson Elementary, Sarah Smith Elementary, Garden Hills Elementary, High Point Elementary, Sutton Middle School* and *North Atlanta High School*. We currently have five students on full scholarships at *Pace Academy* and *The Westminster Schools,* and two students about to graduate from *Emory University* and *College of Charleston*.

# LAAMISTAD 2013 - 2014 HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

# **Strong Bodies Build Strong Minds**

The Gym at Peachtree provides recreation for every student in LaAmistad. Students are offered scholarships to participate in gymnastics, cheer, dance, basketball and other sports each semester as well as one week of summer camp.

# **Press and Media**

LaAmistad received more media attention than ever during the 2013-2014 year. In June, 11 Alive News published an online story on *LaAmistad's Anímate Summer Camp*.

# **Giving Back**

LaAmistad parents volunteered weekly at *Peachtree Presbyterian, Westminster Presbyterian,* and *The Cathedral of St. Philip* as "Sanctuary Saints," preparing the balconies for worship. LaAmistad parents gave back over 500 hours of their time through community service.

Over 100 LaAmistad students and families gave back to the global community during a Peachtree Presbyterian event called Sprout, packing seed packets to send to places around the world to help develop a sustainable food supply.

# **Cultural Experiences**

LaAmistad participants enjoyed a plethora of cultural experiences throughout Atlanta. LaAmistad middle school students attended The High Museum of Art for an afternoon of high culture. Later in the year, *The High* Museum of Art displayed work from LaAmistad students in an exhibit. LaAmistad middle school students had the rare opportunity of touring the Lockheed Martin campus in Cobb County for a special behind-the-scenes tour. LaAmistad students were invited by the Atlanta Hawks to attend a basketball camp in the fall and a special Christmas event at Andretti Indoor Karting and Games in Alpharetta in December. The Atlanta Braves organization took LaAmistad students at the Cathedral of St. Philip under its wing, and several staff members came out to engage them in a special St. Patrick's Day activity hour. The Atlanta Braves also invited LaAmistad students to a special Braves baseball camp as well as to a game where the students were able to meet two of the pitchers; and, they enjoyed Chick-fil-A while taking in a game. The Atlanta History Center also came and did a colonial trunk show with the students who attended LaAmistad After School at The Cathedral of St. Philip.

One first grade student at Westminster Presbyterian improved her addition and subtraction timed computation score by

1200% in 8 short weeks.

# **Youth Leadership Development**

This year's youth leadership initiatives inspired our students. The middle school and high school students participated in LaAmistad's first ever leadership series. The series introduced the students to individuals who are leaders within their local community. Retired FBI Agent James Cross, Georgia State Senator John Albers, and State Representative Pedro Marin were some of the featured individuals who generously gave their time to inspire the teens. The elementary-aged boys had their own pack of Boy Scouts and all girls enjoyed Girls, Inc.

# **Summer Academic Achievements**

LaAmistad and Garden Hills Elementary partnered to send 75 students to *LaAmistad's Anímate Summer Camp* at *The Westminster Schools* where students had academic classes taught by Georgia certified elementary teachers, played sports, and enjoyed dance and art. Pace Academy's *Veranos Sin Limites*, hosted a strong contingent of LaAmistad After School students, as did The Lovett School's *Breakthrough Atlanta*.

# **English Language Learning**

LaAmistad's English for Successful Living enrolled 175 adult English language learners, hosted by *Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church* and the *Community Assistance Center.* 

# **Parent Education Initiative**

100 Latino parents took classes from LaAmistad's partner, *Ser Familia*, on topics like healthy choices, finances, positive parenting, health care, and understanding the education system. *The Microsoft Store* at *Lenox Square Mall* hosted classes for LaAmistad parents on resume writing, finances, and Microsoft Office.

# **Engaged in our Community**

LaAmistad continued to build relationships with over **70 community partners.** 

# We would like to give a **Special thanks** to all of our donors that make LaAmistad possible!

Ms. Maria De Jackson

Ms. Monica Randklev

Mr. Ki Hun Kim

Mr. Leonard Gomez

Mr. Stewart Wallace

Mrs. Helen Stimpert

Noeme Smith

Mr. Derral Fralish

Mr. Saiyed Taqvi

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Atlanta Forum Atlanta International School, Aprendiendo Ingles Sólido-CAS Group Atlanta Trilingual Company Discovery Sunday School Class at Peachtree Presbyterian Gene and Martha Wilson Class at Peachtree Presbyterian Heritage Sunday School Class at Peachtree Presbyterian Lindbergh LaVista Corridor Coalition North Side Woman's Club The Junior League of Atlanta

# **Corporations**

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Lillian Rodríguez López Director of Latin Affairs The Coca-Cola Company



Armando Ruiz Vice President Telecommunications: Americans/Asia Pacific

\* All board members contribute to the organization financially and are involved in strategic planning.

# STAFF



Catrina DaCosta McAfee Executive Director



Jennifer O'Pry M. Ed., Site Director



Aljandra Del Castillo Director of ESL for Adults



Wesley Dennard Development Director



Leigh Ann Griswold
Business Manager



Angharad Chester-Jones Program Director



**Brianna Bacorn** Teen Center Director

# **After School Tutoring**

LaAmistad After School offers Latino students in grades 1 through 12 reading and math enrichment, mentoring, sports programs, and one-on-one tutoring, all of which support academic, physical, and personal growth.

# **English Classes**

LaAmistad's ESL program, English for Successful Living, is the largest ESL program in the state of Georgia and has served more than 5,000 adult students since inception. ESL classes are held several days per week at Peachtree Presbyterian Church and Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church. Six different levels of classes are offered at each location for three 12-week sessions each year.

# **Parent Partnership**

LaAmistad offers a variety of adult education classes specifically aimed at the needs of Latino families through our Parent Partnership Program. With LaAmistad's partner organization, *Ser Familia*, formally *Renovacion Conyugal*, it is able to offer year-round workshops in Spanish which are designed to educate and strengthen Latino families. The Microsoft Store at Lenox Square Mall provides parents with knowledge of basic computing and training in Microsoft Word and Excel.

# **Internship Program**

The LaAmistad Internship Program, in collaboration with Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University and several other high schools and colleges provides real-world experience for eligible high school and college students interested in the fields of education, international affairs, and advocacy. Interns work on a variety of projects, including research and statistical analysis, foundation research and grant writing, fundraising, student tutoring and classroom management, as well as completing daily tasks that are a part of the LaAmistad work environment.

# **Advocacy**

LaAmistad hosts an extensive resource center that provides students and families with information on a myriad of subjects, including health insurance, scholarships, domestic violence, and financial services. Staff members at LaAmistad also serve as advocates for its students in *Atlanta Public Schools* and serve as an advisor to help raise awareness about the needs and circumstances of Latino children.

# **LaAmistad's Animate Summer Camp**

This year marked the third annual *Animate* summer camp held at The Westminster Schools in Atlanta made possible by funding from the *Rotary Club of Atlanta*. Georgia-certified elementary school teachers instruct campers in language arts and math skills. Students also enjoy extracurricular activities such as swimming in The Westminster School's indoor swimming pool or immersing themselves in the fine arts provided through collaboration with Instituto de Mexico.

# **Additional Summer Programs**

In order to maintain their academic, personal, and physical development during the summer, LaAmistad students participate in programs such as *Breakthrough Atlanta*, Pace Academy's *Veranos Sin Limites, Peachtree Presbyterian* and *The Cathedral of St. Philip's Vacation Bible Schools*, and, Sports Camp at *The Gym at Peachtree*.

# Preschool

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LaAmistad facilitates preschool enrollment for eligible Latino students at Peachtree Presbyterian Pre-school, which enrolls more than 400 students annually. LaAmistad believes that a preschool education should be made available to every child. Since its inception, LaAmistad has sent more than 100 children to preschool, allowing children to begin their education with wonder and enthusiasm for learning, all while gaining a strong foundation for the rest of their educational experience.

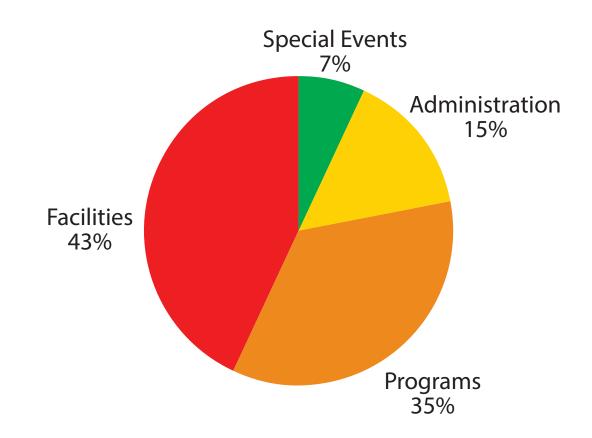
# **LaAmistad Locations**All current programs are listed here:

- LaAmistad After School at Peachtree Presbyterian Church
- LaAmistad After School at Church of the Redeemer
- LaAmistad After School at Westminster Presbyterian Church
- LaAmistad After School at The Cathedral of St. Philip
- LaAmistad English for Successful Living at Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church
- LaAmistad English for Successful Living at Peachtree Presbyterian Church
- LaAmistad English for Successful Living at Community Assistance Center
- LaAmistad's Anímate Summer Camp at The Westminster Schools



# Donations 62% Special Events 10% Program Fees 2%

# **BREAKDOWN OF LAAMISTAD EXPENSES 2013-2014**



# **FINANCIALS**

# **Income Statement**<sup>1</sup>

# Revenue

Donations (Includes in-kind)	\$489,685
Grants	\$210,653
Special Events, net of \$51,926 in direct expenses	\$28,210
Program Fees	\$15,316
Total Revenue	\$743.864

# **Expenses**

Surpius	328,319
Surplus	\$28,519
Total Expenses	\$715,345
Facilities (Includes in-kind)	\$330,249
Administration (Includes fundraising)	\$119,587
Programs	\$265,509

<sup>(1)</sup> The Income Statement above reconciles to the Statement of Activities and Statement of Functional Activities included in the 2014 audited financial statements, which is available upon request.

